



## Jewish Research in The British Isles

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### Introduction

The records of the Jews in the British Isles can be found in 2 different places. If in the right time frame those records can be found in the Government Census and Civil Registration records. Other records pertaining to the Jews can be found in the private collections of archives, libraries and synagogues.

### Objectives

The objective of this course is to help you better understand:

- History
- Types of Jews
- Customs
- Jewish Records

### Types of Jews

- **Ashkenazic:** Yiddish speaking Jews who originate in Central and Eastern Europe. Most Jews of British Isles are of Ashkenazic descent.
- **Sephardic:** Descendants of the Jews who lived in Spain before 1492.
- **Oriental or Eastern Jews:** These Jews don't fit in either of the above. Included are the Jews of North Africa, Yemen, Persia, Turkey and other lands.
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### Naming Customs

**Ashkenazic:** Most did not take surnames until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most often they will not name a child after a living relative.

**Sephardic:** First began using surnames in the 1500's. Children are often named after living relatives to honor them.

### Burial Grounds

- Most but not all headstones have the native language on one side and Hebrew on the opposite side.
- Ashkenazic headstones tend to be upright.
- Sephardic headstones tend to lay flat.
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### Knowles Collection

- 6 databases containing the records of over 1.4 million Jews.
- Over 2,000 different sources.
- People from over 100 countries

- Linked as families.
- Growing at rate of almost 15,000 people per month

## Knowles Collection Databases

- Jews of the British Isles
- Jews of North America
- Jews of South America and Caribbean
- Jews of Africa and the Orient
- Jews of Europe
- Jews of South Pacific

## A Look at The Numbers

Historical British Jewish population		
Year	Pop.	±%
1882	46,000	—
1890	125,000	+171.7%
1900	225,000	+80.0%
1910	275,000	+22.2%
1920	300,000	+9.1%
1930	340,000	+13.3%
1955	410,000	+20.6%
1980	330,000	−19.5%
1990	340,000	+3.0%
2001	266,740	−21.5%
2011	269,568	+1.1%
Source:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2001 &amp; 2011 figures based on respective censuses</li> <li>• Prior data based on estimates<sup>[10][11]</sup></li> </ul>		

en.wikipedia.org